

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 091911Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7345  
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ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: CANADIAN SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY ELECTS NEW LEADER

REF: OTTAWA 1862

1. AT ITS CONVENTION HELD IN WINNIPEG WEEKEND OF MAY 4-7, SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY (SOCREDS) ELECTED LORNE REZNOWSKI NEW NATIONAL LEADER. HE INHERITS A PARTY SERIOUSLY DIVIDED AND LIMITED IN ITS FEDERAL ELECTION PROSPECTS, WHICH ARE ALL IN QUEBEC.

2. REZNOWSKI IS A 49-YEAR OLD PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE AT UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA. HE SPEAKS 8 LANGUAGES, INCLUDING FLUENT FRENCH, AND HAS TIES WITH THE SLAVIC ETHNIC COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN CANADA. HIS STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN THE QUEBEC DELEGATION WAS DECISIVE IN HIS VICTORY (356 TO 115 VOTES) OVER EDMONTON LAWYER MARTIN HATTERSLEY, WHO PLEDGED TO SUPPORT REZNOWSKI.

3. REZNOWSKI, WHO WILL RUN FEDERALLY IN THE WINNIPEG RIDING OF ST. BONIFACE, INHERITS A PARTY BESET WITH  
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SERIOUS DIVISIONS BETWEEN ITS QUEBEC, PRAIRIE, AND BRITISH COLUMBIA WINGS. ONLY FEDERAL REPRESENTATION IS IN QUEBEC WHERE SOCREDS HOLD 8 SEATS. EVEN IN QUEBEC CAUCUS, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT DIVISIONS (REFTTEL). IN THE WEST, ONLY SOCRED OFFICIAL PRESENCE IS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, WHICH IS GOVERNED BY PROVINCIAL SOCRED GOVERNMENT WITH ESSENTIALLY NO TIES TO REST OF SOCRED MOVEMENT

AND LITTLE INTEREST IN SOCRED ORTHODOXY. IN THE PRAIRIES,  
SOCREDS ARE A SPENT FORCE.

4. COMMENT: IN COMING FEDERAL ELECTIONS, SOCREDS SHOULD  
WIN SOME SEATS IN QUEBEC BUT HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE ELSE-  
WHERE. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS, SINCE DEATH OF POWERFUL  
QUEBEC SOCRED LEADER REAL CAOUETTE, THAT QUEBEC ELEMENT  
OF PARTY WOULD SPLINTER AND DISAPPEAR. THEY ARE, IN OUR  
VIEW, EXAGGERATED. QUEBEC SOCRED MPS TAKE EXCELLENT  
CARE OF CONSTITUENTS (TO EXCLUSION OF NEARLY ALL ELSE)  
AND UP TO 7 QUEBEC SOCREDS COULD WIN. IN REST OF COUNTRY,  
SOCRED CANDIDATES COULD BE SPOILERS IN A RIDING OR TWO  
BUT OTHERWISE WILL NOT FIGURE IN ELECTION RESULTS.

5. SINCE REZNOWSKI ENJOYED SUPPORT OF QUEBEC WING OF  
THE PARTY, HIS ELECTION GIVES APPEARANCE OF NATIONWIDE  
UNITY IN SOCRED CAUSE. BUT IT IS NO MORE THAN APPEARANCE  
AS GEOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS OF THE PARTY GO THEIR OWN SEPARATE  
WAYS. DUEMLING

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** CANADIAN SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY ELECTS NEW LEADER  
**TAGS:** PINT, CA, (REZNOWSKI, LORNE)  
**To:** STATE  
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